



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA FISHERIES
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
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CRUISE REPORT¹

VESSEL: *Oscar Elton Sette*, Cruise 08-04 (SE-61)

CRUISE PERIOD: May 16–June 3, 2008

AREA OF OPERATION: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Fig. 1)

TYPE OF OPERATION: Protected Species Division established monk seal field camps and conducted cetacean surveys on islands in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in support of a Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center research project.

ITINERARY:

- 16 May Embarked C. Yoshinaga, J. Lopez, K. Reuland, S. Farry, A. Kaufman, D. Lee, M. Sullivan, M. Bond, T. Wurth, M. Cahoon, A. Marie, B. Vanderlip, M. Hester, C. Vanderlip, M. Lewis, I. Nurzia-Humburg, M. Ramano, S. Barclay, and J. Barlow. Departed Ford Island, Honolulu at 1000 en route to French Frigate Shoals.
- 18 May Arrived French Frigate Shoals 0800. Disembarkd Farry, Lee, Nurzia-Humburg, Ramano, Bond, and Barclay. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including two 17-ft Boston Whaler boats and five drums of unleaded gasoline. Departed French Frigate Shoals 1600 en route to Laysan Island.
- 20 May Arrived Laysan Island 0800 hours. Off-loaded National Marine Fisheries Service equipment and supplies. Departed Laysan Island 1600 en route to Lisianski Island.
- 21 May Arrived Lisianski Island. Weather was too rough to launch boats. Decided to continue to Kure to conduct off-load of personnel and supplies.

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- 22 May Arrived Kure Atoll 1300. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including three 55-gal drums of unleaded gasoline, outboard engines, and one 13-ft Boston Whaler. Disembarked Lopez, Marie, Vanderlip, Hester, Vanderlip, and Lewis.
- 23 May Continued off-loading. Departed Kure Atoll 1100 en route to Midway Atoll.
- 23 May Arrived Midway Atoll 1600. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including four (4) pallets of gear and one (1) 55-gal drum of gasoline. Embarked J. O'Bryan and T. Summers.
- 24 May Departed Midway Atoll 0800 en route to Lisianski Island.
- 25 May Arrived Lisianski Island 0800. Disembarked Reuland, Kaufman, and Sullivan. Off-loaded all supplies and equipment. Conducted survey of island. Departed Lisianski Island 1600 en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef.
- 26 May Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef 0800. Deployed Wurth, Cahoon, and Yoshinaga to conduct day surveys of Seal-Kittery, Grass, and Southeast Islands. Departed Pearl and Hermes Reef 1400 en route to Lisianski Island.
- 27 May Arrived Lisianski Island 0900. Recovered field camp. Conducted survey of island for instrumented seals for foraging ecology study.
- 28 May Deployed field team to continue survey for instrumented seals on Lisianski Island. Recovered field team 1500. Departed Lisianski Island 1600 en route to Laysan Island.
- 29 May Arrived Laysan Island 0800. Disembarked Reuland, Kaufman, and O'Bryan. Embarked D. Tsukayama. Set up Laysan monk seal field camp. Departed Laysan Island 1600 en route to French Frigate Shoals.
- 31 May Arrived French Frigate Shoals 0730. Disembarked Summers and Sullivan. Embarked B. Storm and M. Romano. Departed French Frigate Shoals 0830 en route to Nihoa Island.
- 1 June Arrived Nihoa Island 0900. Launched Achillies boat and deployed Cahoon and Wurth to conduct survey of island. Recovered scientific party and boat at 1200. Departed Nihoa Island en route to Ka'ula Rock.
- 2 June Arrived Ka'ula Rock 0800. Conducted survey of island. Transited to Ni'ihau. Launched SAFE boat to conduct survey of west side of Ni'ihau. Recovered scientific party and SAFE boat 1500. Transited to Honolulu.
- 3 June Arrived Honolulu 0800. Off-loaded all supplies, equipment, trash, and recyclables. Disembarked all scientific personnel. End of cruise.

MISSIONS AND RESULTS:

1. Establish field camps at Kure Atoll, Laysan Island, and French Frigate Shoals. Transport all equipment, supplies, and personnel.

All field camps were deployed successfully.

2. Deploy “short” camps at Lisianski Island and Pearl and Hermes Reef to conduct population assessment study of Hawaiian monk seals.
 - a. A “short” camp was deployed on Lisianski Island from May 25 to May 28. Two satellite tags were recovered. Two other satellite tagged seals were recorded as having lost their tags. In addition, 5 weaned monk seal pups were tagged.
 - b. The camp at Pearl and Hermes was canceled to make up for the lost time at Lisianski Island due to weather delays. It was determined by the chief scientist that priority would be given to the Lisianski Island camp. A 1-day survey was conducted at Pearl and Hermes Reef. In total, four weaned pups were tagged; one on Seal-Kittery Island, two on Grass Island, and one on Southeast Island.

3. Resupply existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field camps at Laysan Island and French Frigate Shoals. Transport equipment, supplies, and personnel.

All equipment, supplies, and personnel were transported successfully.

4. Establish Department of Fish and Wildlife field camp at Kure Atoll.

All equipment, supplies, and personnel were transported successfully.

5. Conduct beach census of Necker Island, Nihoa Island, Ni’ihau, and Ka’ula Rock.

- a. Day census of Nihoa Island, Ni’ihau, and Ka’ula Rock were conducted.

- b. The Necker island census was canceled.

6. Conduct conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) casts opportunistically.

Six CTD casts were conducted.

**SCIENTIFIC
PERSONNEL:**

Chad Yoshinaga, Chief Scientist, Program Management Analyst, Pacific Islands
Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service
Jessica Lopez, Logistics Specialist, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research
(JIMAR), University of Hawaii (UH)
Shawn Farry, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH
Kenady Reuland, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Angie Kaufmann, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Derek Lee, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Monica Bond, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Mark Sullivan, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
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(/s/Chad Yoshinaga)

Submitted by: _____

Chad Yoshinaga

Chief Scientist

(/s/Samuel G. Pooley)

Approved by: _____

Samuel G. Pooley

Science Director

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Attachment

